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HISTORY OF IOLANI PALACE

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Prince Kabio was delegate  
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1925 designated as Loken Palace.

1929 still for

1938 Throne Room restored

## HISTORY OF IOLANI PALACE.

The first Palace was begun in July, 1844, by Kekua-naoa, the building being intended for the Princess Victoria Kamamalu. Instead, King Kamehameha III took possession of it and occupied it as the Royal Residence.

During a session of the Privy Council, on December 7th, 1863, King Kamehameha IV expressed his desire to name the Palace "St. Alexander's Palace". The Privy Council suggested, instead, the name "Iolani Palace", to which the king agreed. What significance attaches to the first choice of the King is obscure, but it is probable the Councillors believed an Hawaiian name more fitting, Iolani having been the name of Kamehameha II, as well as Kamehameha IV.

On December 30th, 1871, it was announced that the Government would erect a new Palace. Accordingly the old building was razed and the present structure, retaining the same name, was begun on the site of the former.

December 30th, 1879, birthday of Queen Kapiolani, the King chose as the day for ceremonies incident to the laying of the cornerstone. Under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge, of which the King was a member, David Dayton, Grand Master of the Order, laid the stone. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. John M. Kapena, delivered the address in the presence of Hawaiian Royalty, Hawaiian Societies, different lodges, Representatives of Foreign Powers, officers of U. S. Warships in port, the Military and Civil Authorities, Government Officials, etc., the occasion being made a gala event.

The building is 140 by 120 feet on ground plan, four stories high, surmounted by a central tower and four corner towers, the height from the ground to the top of the central

5  
8 tower being 80 feet. Architect was Mr. T. J. Baker, and the design, modified Italian. The work was carried on under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Robert Stirling, and his successor. The building was completed in 1881 at a cost of over \$350,000.00.

1 The new Iolani Palace was occupied by King Kalakaua, and after his death, by Her Majesty Liliuokalani, his sister, succeeding from the regency to the throne on January 29th, 1891. During her reign, on January 16, 1893, the Monarchy was overthrown, and a Provisional Government was established which was succeeded on July 4, 1894, by the Republic of Hawaii. Annexation to the United States took place formally on August 12, 1898, when the U. S. flag was raised on the building by Admiral Miller of the U. S. S. Philadelphia. Annexation became imperative through the exigencies of the Spanish-American War.

3 The room now used as the House of Representatives was, during the Monarchy, the Throne Room, the dais being in the same position then as now. It was also used for the ceremonials attendant on the funeral rites and the lying-in-state of the bodies of the King and different members of the Royal family.

3 Directly opposite, across the hall, the room now used as the Senate Chamber was formerly the Royal Dining Room; the rooms directly beneath, in the basement, now used as the Land Offices and the Offices of the Department of Public Works, were the Chamberlain's office, kitchen and corresponding service rooms.

The second floor rooms were mainly used as the bed chambers of the Royal Family, although the upper hall was generally used as a breakfast room. The room now occupied by the Territorial Auditor is the room in which the Queen, Liliuokalani, was imprisoned by the Provisional Government from January 16th,

5 1895 until September 6th, 1895, following a revolution in which her friends had hoped to restore her to the throne.

3 The present Executive Chamber of the Governor was the room used as a bedroom by King Kalakaua. The adjoining room, now the office of the Governor's Secretary, was, during the Monarchy, the Cabinet Meeting Room. The room now occupied by the Secretary of the Territory was once the Royal Music Room.

3 Across the hall, was Queen Kapiolani's bedroom, now the office of the Attorney General. The office of the clerks of the Attorney General's Department and the Auditor's office, were used as bedrooms and occupied by the Princesses Poomaikelani and Kekaulike, sisters of Queen Kapiolani. (Princess Kekaulike, also known as Kinoiki, was the mother of the present territorial delegate to Congress, Prince Kalaniana'ole.)

4 The large wooden building of Italian style of architecture, situated in the grounds adjacent to the Palace, was built to house the guests of the King and Queen, and the High Chiefs and Chiefesses who from time to time came to visit at court for purposes of business or pleasure.

1 This, in brief, is the history of Iolani Palace.

1 By Kate Marcia Forbes,

1 Member of Hawaiian Historical  
1 Society.